

Sermon Discussion Questions for July 17, 2016

Genesis 12:1-7, Hebrews 11:8-12; “Abraham and Sarah: Faith to Follow into the Unknown”

1. What is the relationship between anxiety and entering the “land of the unknown”?
2. Give an example from your own life about your anxiety of entering your unknown?
3. What role did your faith play in facing this experience?
4. Briefly define the terms used in this message: “anthropocentric” and “theocentric.”
5. How many times does God refer to Himself in *Genesis 12:1-3*?
6. How do these two perspectives affect your “world and life view” as a Christian?
7. Is it possible to be a Christian and yet retain an anthropocentric view on any given matter or issue?
8. Consider *Genesis 12:4*. In what way is “faith a response to God’s proactive revelation”? Why is it important to God and to us to always maintain this perspective on faith?
9. Discuss the three dimensions of Abraham’s faith (immediate, non-negotiated, unknown) as described in *Hebrews 11:8*. Do you at times display a “negotiated” faith? Provide an example of this from your own life experience? What was the result?
10. In what ways is faith “forward looking” (*Hebrews 11:10*)?
11. In what way was Sarah’s faith “upward looking” (*Hebrews 11:11*)?
12. In what way is faith built upon the foundation of God’s promises, not life appearances (*Genesis 12:7; Hebrews 11:12*)? What change might the Lord bring to your life if you lived “by promises, not appearances” [Jack Miller phrase]?
13. How does the gospel fulfill the promises that God made to Abraham? [*Galatians 3:7-9, 29*]
14. What is the significance of *II Corinthians 1:19-20*. How is your confidence in your future rooted in Christ and not your control? How is our confidence in our future as a congregation rooted in Christ and not our control?

15. In what way did God “ordain” both the end and the means for Abraham and Sarah?
How is God glorified and how are you are satisfied when you see the Lord as both your end and your means?

16. What is “Christocentric faith”? Do you have and live it? How do you acquire it? How do you retain it? What difference does it make?